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No. 6

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at noon.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, the fountain of truth and wisdom, thank You for the yearning You have placed in our hearts for You.

Today, equip our Senators for the tasks before them. Help them strive to make the rough places of our world smooth and the crooked places straight. As they debate the Judge Samuel Alito nomination to the Supreme Court, give them the wisdom to be guided by conscience and not contention. Empower them to disagree without being disagreeable. Guide their hands, hearts, and minds to those undertakings that please You. May they never swerve from the straight and narrow path of Your unfolding providence.

Help us all to live for Your honor so that even our enemies will be at peace with us. Bless our military men and women who sacrifice each day to keep us free. We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SAMUEL A. ALITO, JR., TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 486, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr., of New Jersey, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. shall be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, today, we resume consideration of the nomination of Judge Alito to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The order from yesterday allows the Democrat side to begin debate this morning at 10 o'clock and speak for up to 1 hour. Then the majority will have the hour from 11 to 12, and we will con-

tinue alternating 1-hour blocks of time between the two sides throughout the day. Members should plan their schedules accordingly to use the allocated time to make their statements. We will continue to work toward a final time for a vote on the nomination.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Chair will state that the time from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. shall be under the control of the majority leader or his designee, with each hour rotating back and forth in the same manner after that time.

The Senator is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished President pro tempore, my friend of over 30 years. The debate has worked out well by going back and forth, showing the usual comity here in the Senate.

I began my discussion of Judge Alito's nomination for a lifetime appointment to the Nation's highest Court with the same issue I began my questions to Judge Alito and, before that, to now Chief Justice Roberts: That is the issue of checks and balances on Government power. Obviously, the answers given by Chief Justice Roberts I found satisfactory. I voted for him. The answers by Judge

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S145